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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 12 January 2000 (S/2000/18) regarding the approval of the distribution plan submitted by the Government of Iraq for phase VII of the humanitarian programme pursuant to Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Iraq was informed today that I have approved the proposals made by the Government for the inclusion of a housing sector as part IX of the distribution plans for phases VI and VII. The Government of Iraq has also been informed that the requirements for housing have been approved on the understanding that the implementation of this part of the plan would be governed by resolutions 986 (1995), 1281 (1999) and 1284 (1999) and by the Memorandum of Understanding concluded on 20 May 1996 between the United Nations Secretariat and the Government of Iraq (S/1996/356), and would be without prejudice to the procedures followed by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) of 2 August 1990. The letter dated 12 June 2000 addressed to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations from the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme is attached.

A copy of the list of supplies and goods contained in the distribution plans concerned will be made available to the Security Council Committee. The list has been scrutinized by experts of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, who concluded that, on the basis of the limited information given in the annexes, no prohibited items could be identified. They will keep the matter under review and provide a further assessment in the light of any additional information that may become available.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme addressed to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

With reference to your letter dated 6 June 2000 and previous letters dated 3, 10 and 22 May 2000 concerning allocations to the housing sector under phase VI and phase VII of the humanitarian programme pursuant to Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, I should like to recall that in my letter of 12 January 2000, I informed you that the Secretary-General would await the outcome of the joint technical review before taking a decision on the proposals made by the Government of Iraq regarding the housing sector. I have now been authorized by the Secretary-General to convey the following.

Having examined the findings of the joint technical review, submitted to your Government under cover of my letter dated 12 April 2000, and having received the agreement of your Government conveyed in your letter dated 22 May 2000, the Secretary-General has concluded that the revised plan concerning housing requirements, if properly implemented, should assist in meeting essential civilian needs for housing. The housing sector requirement is therefore approved for the inclusion as part IX of the distribution plans for phase VI and VII, with the following understandings.

In regard to the budgetary allocations for phases VI and VII of the humanitarian programme, while this is endorsed for the purpose of planning, it may be necessary to adjust expenditures in the light of the final revenues generated during the respective phases.

The implementation of the plan for the housing sector is governed by Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and all other relevant resolutions, and the Memorandum of Understanding concluded on 20 May 1996 between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Government of Iraq (S/1996/356). In case of inconsistency between the particular provisions of the revised plan on the one hand, and the relevant resolutions and the Memorandum of Understanding on the other, the provisions of the latter documents shall prevail.

The approval of the housing sector is without prejudice to actions that might be taken by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) regarding the applications for export of particular items contained in the list submitted for the Committee's consideration, in accordance with its procedures.

The housing sector is approved in accordance with the findings and conclusions of the joint technical review referred to above. I also note that, as explained in your letter dated 22 May 2000, additional requirements for housing will be submitted, as amendments, to the distribution plans for phase VI and phase VII, by the Ministry of Housing and Construction and the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. On receipt of the said amendments, these will be reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, in the distribution plans concerned, within the framework for the equitable distribution of goods established by the joint technical review.

In his letter dated 12 June 2000 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated that, as part of his endorsement of the housing sector, United Nations observers will be deployed to Iraq to fulfil the observation requirements pursuant to Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and the Memorandum of Understanding of 1996. Accordingly, I have requested the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, in conjunction with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to ensure that appropriate observation procedures are put in place immediately and to ensure that United Nations observers undertake observation of housing settlement supplies delivered and utilized under the relevant resolutions.

The Office of the Iraq Programme will assist in identifying item codes for all commodities that fall within the housing sector, as well as in amending the relevant distribution plans, as appropriate. Contracts circulated and approved to date against the original codes in annex I to the distribution plan for phase VII will be considered as funded against the allocation for the housing sector, thereby freeing resources for other items required for the food-handling subsector. In this context, I should like to note that the additional $100 million allocation for the food-handling subsector requested under cover of your letter, dated 10 May 2000, may now be assigned. However, should your Government wish to fund housing sector commodities from the additional $100 million allocation, as indicated in your letter dated 4 May 2000, this sum may be added to the new sectoral allocation.

I should like to assure you that the observations of the relevant Iraqi authorities conveyed to me in your letter dated 22 May 2000 are appreciated and will be dealt with at the technical level by my colleagues in Iraq.

(*Signed*) Benon V. **Sevan**
Executive Director